ATTACHMENT A

A/B, 2, 10/49

H-B/3

PROTOCOL

[redacted]

"Ecology" is that branch of science which deals with the relation between organisms and their environment. The formal study of the ecology of animals and micro-organisms has been pursued extensively. The ecology of man has not been given much attention as such, although a great deal of information relating to human ecology has been accumulated in such fields as anthropology, sociology, psychology, medicine and public health. It will be the purpose of the institute to collect and organize the information which is already available, and to add to this information by studies of its own.

An interest in human ecology on the part of the Department of Medicine arises from the fact that man's attempts to adapt to his environment have an important effect upon his general health, and play a major part in the development of many illnesses. It has become desirable to conduct studies of man as a whole, in relation to all aspects of his environment, and to try to define what relations between man and his environment are most conducive to health. Such studies are concerned both with those factors relating to the individual which govern his capacity to adapt, and those relating to the environment which govern the adaptations which must be made. In the first category are considerations such as the physiological mechanisms involved in human adaptations, and the factors which influence man's perception of his environment. In the second category are considerations such as the cultural, social, and physical demands made upon men in

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various environmental situations, and their effect upon the health of persons exposed to these situations. Cutting across both categories are considerations such as the role of developmental experiences and inborn constitution of individuals in determining their later ability to adapt to various environmental situations.

B/3 The [redacted] will therefore draw upon many disciplines, and will not be confined by limitations with regard to the point of view from which problems are approached, or the methods to be used in their investigation. It is not intended to establish a new discipline, but rather to establish a mechanism which allows the investigator to draw freely upon the information and methods of all fields of human knowledge which may help to answer the question of what is an optimum relation between man and his environment.

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